

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

PROTECTION OF THE NESTING SEASON

WHAT:

Nesting habitat is protected for ground nesting grassland birds within pasture and hay fields.

WHEN:

Disturbance of approved pasture and hay fields is restricted between April 15 and August 15 each year of the contract after approval and scheduling of the enhancement.

WHERE:

Undisturbed grassland areas will be near shrubby cover and/or crop field edges whenever this habitat is available to provide food and cover values.

HOW:

The following restrictions are applied to protect nesting habitat; no grazing, haying, mowing, burning, chemical applications or vehicular traffic during the designated nesting season. The deferred acreage may remain in the same areas each year to facilitate fencing needs, or may be rotated to facilitate other needs such as weed control.

HOW MUCH:

A minimum 20 percent of approved grassland acres are set aside from any disturbance during the nesting season. Although preferred, the entire deferred acreage is not required to be contiguous. However, to minimize nest predation individual blocks must be at least five percent of the total acreage for all approved fields, and each individual area must be at least 100 feet wide.

The CSP Enhancement payment is \$10 per acre per year applicable to the entire field planned for the deferment of 20 percent for nesting habitat.